

## **589th BSB Fusion Cell Operations for OIF-05-07**

### **By: “The Iron Caissons”**

As the mighty 589th Brigade Support Battalion set up operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, the key task was figuring out how the organization was going to plan, operate, and track missions. The other challenge was simply figuring out where to set up-a task faced by all units during a deployment.

But with the keen minds and sharp leadership skills bountiful in the Non Commissioned Officer Corps within the S-3 section and Support Operations (SPO) Transportation section, the 589th BSB quickly overcame those two main hurdles.

The Mobile Expandable Command Center (MECC) container was set up in such a way which allowed planners and information gatherers to ensure each mission was carefully thought out and executed. What has been known as the Fusion Cell has been, and continues to be a key hub for developing routes and overlays all the way to checking the Blue Force Tracker (BFT) digital tracker; MTS and FCBC2 messaging. Constant checks on FM Radios were performed. The Fusion Cell also served as the rally point to determine Start Point (SP) times and Entry Control Points (ECPs) as well.

Those who worked in the Cell on the day shift shouldered the responsibility of planning out mission routes, radio frequencies, escorting unit, and number of trucks to escort. In addition, the SPO Transportation section coordinated for Unit moves on the battlefield and Air Movement Request (AMR) for Soldiers to be flown through out the theater to accomplish their missions.

By nightfall, those working the swing and graveyard shifts in the Fusion Cell diligently tracked and monitored combined operations and movement on the battlefield for the command.

“We communicate constantly with the Convoy Commander from start to finish of every mission,” says Sgt. 1st Class Jarad Billman, non commissioned officer in charge of the night shift Fusion Cell. “We track on the BFT as well, to let the Commander know where his Soldiers are located on the Battlefield at any given time,” added Billman.

Billman stressed that the job itself can be rather difficult because all those working any shift have at least five information systems to constantly monitor-information that must be passed on quickly and accurately. But he said that it’s also highly rewarding, when the convoy commanders come back in, with all Soldiers and all their fingers and toes.

“And that is the plan behind the plan, each and every time,” said Billman.

“And that is the way it suppose to be, teamwork!” says Sgt. 1st Class Renior Riley, non commissioned officer in charge, SPO Transportation section, which is a part of the Fusion Cell. “Everything from fueling up generators and ACU units to radio commo checks, we work as a Team,” beamed Riley.

Riley added although the Fusion Cell mission at times can be stressful, the mission of getting supplies to units out the battlefield when and where they need to be is vital to mission accomplishment here in Iraq.

**Fusion Cell, Day Members:** SFC Riley, SFC Jules, SSG Dunnaway, SSG Lowther, SSG Strickland, SSG Weeks, SPC Hinajosa

**Fusion Cell, Night Members:** SFC Billman, SSG Tackett, SPC Springfield, SPC Carter, PFC Raddie

**Fusion Cell OICs/Battle Captains:** CPT Freschi, 1LT Kuhn, CPT Frimml, CPT Madera



**Staff Sgt. Doak Tackett carefully reviews information for an upcoming Combat Logistics Patrol for performed by the Soldiers of Company A, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Oct. 8. Doak works the night shift at the 589th BSB's Fusion Cell, which is the hub of all planning and monitoring activity for each and every mission the battalion participates in.**



**Spc. Brandon Stringfield keeps a close watch on the radio during the night shift at the 589th Brigade Support Battalion's Fusion Cell Oct. 8. The Cell is the hub of all planning and monitoring activity for each and every mission the battalion is involved in.**



**Spc. John Carter, carefully watches all activity on the 589th Brigade Support Battalion's Command Post of the Future (CPOF) monitoring system during the night shift at the battalion's Fusion Cell Oct. 8. The Cell is the hub of all planning and monitoring activity for each and every mission the battalion is involved in.**